MEMORANDUM

February 19, 1964

TO: Mr. Joseph Ball
Mr. David W. Belin

FROM: Messrs. Leon D. Hubert, Jr.
Burt W. Griffin

SUBJECT: Photographs in File C1.1 (2) showing identification cards in name of Alek James Hidell and bus transfer reportedly found on person of Lee Harvey Oswald.

1. This file contains a photograph of the United States Marine Corps official "Certificate of Service" in the name of Alek James Hidell, and a Selective Service System notice of classification card in the same name during selective service No. 42243395321. These basic questions are raised:

a. How did Oswald obtain the blanks of these cards?

b. Whose typewriter was used in the preparation of these cards?

c. Who did the typing?

d. Who forged the signatures on the "Alek Hidell" Selective Service card?

Some possibilities are:

(a) i. Oswald obtained them in blank from someone in Dallas or New Orleans who sold stolen or counterfeit identification cards. (If so, does not this suggest some important contacts which Oswald may have had? Normally, forged or stolen military and selective service identification cards are peddled through the underworld. If Oswald obtained his cards in such a fashion, do these leads point to anyone who might have been connected with Jack Ruby?)

ii. Oswald photographed his own blank selective service identification card and had it reproduced. Oswald is known to have been a photographer. Oswald could have made a lithographic or other plate from a photograph of his own cards and then run off copies of the plate. If so, he would have had to obtain ink and paper acceptable to those used in obtaining the plates. If this were done, where did Oswald get the printing equipment, the ink, and the paper?

iii. Oswald photographed his own ID card and someone else made the plate and ran off the phony identification card. If so, when might Oswald have known who had those facilities?

iv. Oswald tried one method, himself, and then secured assistance from someone else. (This is suggested because of the erasures and strike overs on the forged selective service card.

(b) The typewriter used. - Oswald's? An employer's? A land lady's? Mrs. Paine's? - or another friend?

The possession of counterfeit federal identification cards suggests that Oswald had underworld connections, was associated in some way with someone else who had such connections, had contacts in the federal government or access to Marine and Secret Service documents, was supplied with such documents by a foreign government or counter-revolutionary group, made purchases which might well be traced, or had a confederate with printing or photographic skill. It is common in many localities that drivers licenses and other forms of local identification are forged, counterfeited, stolen and otherwise marketed through underworld channels. It has been our experience that federal identification cards are not the subject of such widespread black market traffic with the exception of perhaps, social security cards.

Dave Slawson reports that in Volume 206 - page 60, the FBI has concluded, upon laboratory examination that the selective service card which bears the name Alek James Hidell bears an erasure of the name Lee Harvey Oswald. That evidence, however, is not conclusive in any respect on the origin of the Marine Corps discharge card bearing the name of Alek James Hidell. With respect to the Selective Service card, many questions remain since it may then be that the card bearing Oswald's name was a stolen or forged card. Or, if no theft or forgery occurred, Oswald would have had to claim a lost card and to obtain a replacement from the Selective Service Board. Records would be available to establish that and the date for the alteration or forgery <u>might</u> be established?

2. The file contains a Dallas Transportation Company Transfer No. 00459, dated Friday, November 22, 1963. The transfer indicates, "good within fifteen minutes of time indicated on date issued only". The photograph in file 21.1 (1) does not show any time on it. How has the FBI determined when Oswald obtained this transfer? The transfer also bears the inscription "thru car". Does this mean that the transfer was issued in connection with a trolley car instead of a bus? What is the significance of "thru"? The transfer further bears the language "shopper transfer". What does that inscription indicate about the circumstances under which Oswald would have obtained the transfer? The transfer is also punched next to the name "Lakewood". How does Lakewood relate to Oswald?

Griffin/jv/2-20-64

cc: Griffin chron file.